



**Department of Justice
U.S. Attorney's Office
Southern District of Texas**

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FEDERAL FIREARMS CHARGES FILED AGAINST FOUNTAIN

HOUSTON, TX – A federal criminal complaint was filed late Thursday, April 20, 2006, charging Roderick Terrell Fountain, 31, a convicted felon, with the unlawful possession of a firearm in violation of federal law. United States Attorney Don DeGabrielle stated that this federal prosecution is part of Project Safe Neighborhoods, a Department of Justice gun violence reduction initiative, which partners federal, state and local law enforcement to investigate and prosecute those who illegally possess or use firearms and ammunition. As part of its prosecutorial efforts, the United States Attorney's Office for the Southern District of Texas has partnered with local District Attorneys in the area to ensure that firearm-related cases are reviewed and prosecuted in the forum where the offender will receive the stiffest sentence allowed by law. The Southern District has primarily concentrated its resources on prosecuting convicted felons who possess firearms, illegal aliens in possession of firearms, individuals who traffic firearms, and those individuals who carry or use firearms in relation to drug crimes or crimes of violence.

According to the allegations in the criminal complaint, officers of the Houston Police Department Homicide division searched an apartment located at 1251 Wilcrest in Houston occupied by Fountain and his wife. During the search of the master bedroom closet, officers found a Mossberg, model 600, 12 gauge shotgun among Roderick Fountain's possessions. Fountain was allegedly convicted of felony robbery in Alameda County, California in August 1997. Convicted felons are prohibited by federal law from possessing a firearm and face a maximum sentence of 10 years in federal prison, without parole, and a \$250,000 fine if formally charged and convicted of this federal felony firearms offense.

A warrant for Fountain arrest on the federal charges has issued. Harris County law enforcement officials have been notified of the outstanding federal warrant for Fountain's arrest. Fountain was placed into federal custody upon making his bond on the state case. He is expected to make an initial appearance before U.S. Magistrate Judge Mary Milloy today.

This case was investigated by the Houston Police Department, the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, and is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorneys Douglas Davis and Gregg Costa.

A criminal complaint is an accusation of criminal conduct, not evidence. A defendant is presumed innocent unless and until convicted through due process of law.

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